

Today this historic Cathedral continues to beckon Catholics through its doors. Thousands of Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals have been celebrated there.

And for many years, generations of generations of residents of Brownsville and the Rio Grande Valley have called the Immaculate Conception Cathedral home. I am honored that this beautiful cathedral is located in the 27th Congressional District of Texas, which I so humbly represent.

I join the Diocese of Brownsville, the residents of the city and the Rio Grande Valley in celebrating the cathedral's anniversary.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the historic Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville, Texas, on the tip of South Texas, along the U.S.-Mexico border.

HONORING THE CARTERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE 2009 GHSA STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a very talented group of young men from Cartersville in Georgia's 11th District. This past weekend, the Cartersville High School Purple Hurricanes claimed the Class AAA Georgia High School Association State Baseball Championship. Success on the baseball diamond is nothing new for Cartersville High School, which has won back to back state titles and claimed five championships since 2001. However, this year's title win was extra sweet, as the Canes rallied back from a 7-5 deficit to win Game 3 of the championship series—defeating the Columbus Blue Devils, who were the 3rd ranked team in the nation, by a final score of 10-7.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Coach Stuart Chester and the Cartersville High School Baseball Team for their successful season as well as the hard work that got them there. And with a team that has made winning a tradition and brought home two straight state championships, the next question is can Cartersville make it a three-peat?

HONORING JOHN GILBERT STRONG

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with sadness to honor Mr. John Gilbert Strong of Petaluma, who passed away on April 25, 2009, at the age of 67. John spent much of his life dedicating his time and resources to addressing humanitarian issues at home and around the world.

As a member of the Petaluma Valley Rotary, John presided as Club President and District Governor. His altruistic endeavors included a number of Rotary projects, which included supporting the Cool Kids Camp for

Abused Children, providing furniture to schools in Guatemala and facilitating Rotary Youth Leadership Activities.

His passion for helping others took him on adventures around the world. He promoted economic self-sufficiency in Thailand and Vietnam and built a library in a Central American village.

He had limitless compassion and supported projects benefitting people in his local community. He provided emergency food relief to firefighters during the Oakland Hills fire, supported the Petaluma Library, and volunteered for the Committee on the Shelterless and the STRIVE program for at-risk youth.

John's generous spirit and engaging leadership led to an impressive list of accolades, including the Rotary Club's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Citizen of the Year Award from the Petaluma Area Chamber of Commerce.

John Strong, who battled Parkinson's later in life, was also a champion for continued research to find a cure for the disease.

In addition to being a role model of civic responsibility, John was a skilled coppersmith. A native of England, he acquired coppersmith skills from working in the shipyards and attending the Liverpool College of Technology. After immigrating to the United States in 1963, he purchased Acme Sheet Metal and later started Copperworks, where he exhibited his talented craftsmanship by creating range hoods and other custom items.

John is survived by his wife, Mamie Strong, his son, Karl Strong, his step-sons Curtis and Bradley Boomhower, as well as grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his step-daughter, Lolita Lynn Boomhower Courts.

Madam Speaker, Mr. John Strong's passion for helping others will live on through those people around the world that he has positively influenced. His legacy will continue to serve as a shining example of the power one person holds to make a positive difference in our world.

MAYRA GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mayra Garcia who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mayra Garcia is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mayra Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Mayra Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR VIC
BURGESS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the former Mayor Vic Burgess for his years of service to the City of Corinth and the North Texas Region.

After a public service career that spans nearly three decades, Vic Burgess retired this year after three terms as Mayor of Corinth, Texas. Prior to being elected Mayor, Mr. Burgess served as the Denton County Judge, as well as City Councilman in Lewisville, Texas.

During his tenure, Mayor Burgess was known for his enthusiasm, dedication and mediation skills. Under his leadership, the City Council worked to stabilize the city's budget and financial reporting. With an eye towards the future, Corinth's development codes became more efficient.

Vic Burgess' service to the community goes beyond elected office. As a concerned citizen, he served on the Lewisville Planning and Zoning Commission. His first volunteer duties were as a Reserve Officer for the Lewisville Police Department. He performed duties as a Reserve Officer for the Denton County Sheriff's Department as well. Mayor Burgess is also a man dedicated to family.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mayor Vic Burgess for his years of hard work and dedication given to the citizens of Corinth and North Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington. His service sets a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will endure.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF
USAF LT. COL. MARK STRATTON
OF FOLEY, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of southwest Alabama's own who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom abroad.

United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton, a long-time resident of Foley was deployed to Afghanistan in November, where he served as commander of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team. The team worked on civil affairs initiatives with the Afghan population and was building a road to provide access to an isolated mountain region northeast of Kabul. It was here where Mark was killed on Memorial Day, when an improvised explosive device detonated as his convoy was passing.

Mark set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military. A graduate of Foley High School in Foley, Mark went on to study at Texas A&M University, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1991. He received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps one year after

graduation. Before deploying to Afghanistan, Mark was stationed in Washington, D.C. He served as an executive assistant for the deputy director for Asian politico-military affairs at the Pentagon. In conversations with his friends and family, it was mentioned time and again that Mark was someone who loved God, loved his family, and loved the Air Force. Beyond that, Mark loved the country he served until the very end. His commendations for his service include a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Madam Speaker, I feel certain his many friends in Baldwin County and his comrades in the United States Air Force, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember the many accomplishments of his service to the nation and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedoms we enjoy.

We should also remember his wife, Jennifer; their three young children, Delaney, Jake, and A.J.; his mother, Jan York and her husband Buddy; his brothers, Michael Stratton and Frankie Little; and his other family members and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Charles Province who said, "It is the Soldier, not the minister, who has given us the freedom of religion. It is the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press. It is the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to protest. It is the Soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial. It is the Soldier, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote. It is the Soldier who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag, And whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Make no mistake, Mark Stratton was not only a dedicated member of the Air Force who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.

May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF THE 62ND ANNUAL ANNANDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS BANQUET

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the 62nd Annual Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

The Annandale Chamber of Commerce is a thriving volunteer organization with over 200 active members. The members represent businesses, industries and professionals who work together to maintain a favorable business climate while improving the quality of life for all residents.

Each year, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce honors a select few who have dis-

tinguished themselves as exemplars of the community. It is my honor to recognize these fine individuals and the contributions that they have made to the community. This year, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce has expanded the categories with the addition of an Award of Valor which honors the services of two Public Safety professionals. The following are the Honorees of the 62nd Annual Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

Award Recipients in the Student Category are:

William Law, Northern Virginia Community College

Luis Inarra, Annandale High School

Michell Addington, Falls Church High School

The recipient of the 2009 Citizen of the Year Award is Shel Youtz. Shel has been a cornerstone of the Annandale community. In addition to his reliable presence each year at the Fall Festival, Shel chairs or sponsors events and fundraisers in support of the Student Education Foundation and in support of our military veterans.

The Award of Valor for a member of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has been awarded to Lt. Jeff Allen. Lt. Allen is a 22 year veteran of the Fire and Rescue Department and a member of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team. Throughout his tenure, Lt. Allen has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty, providing leadership and courage during emergencies and other hazardous incidents.

The Award of Valor for a member of the Fairfax County Police Department has been awarded to PFC Kathleen O'Leary. Although PFC O'Leary has been with the force for only 3 years, she has already distinguished herself as an exceptional public servant, placing the needs of the community ahead of her own personal safety.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Honorees of the 2009 Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet and to thank them for their service. Each honoree is a role model for his or her peers and an invaluable member of the community as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO THE HANCOCK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hancock County Conservation Board on their 50th anniversary. The Hancock County Conservation Board serves over 12,100 citizens in Hancock County in North Central Iowa.

The first board was appointed by the Hancock County Board of Supervisors (HCCB) in 1959. One of HCCB's priorities is to provide park areas and protect the natural areas for wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. In the past 50 years they have acquired 4 parks, 15 wildlife areas, 2 wildlife refuges for a total of 21 areas, and 1,211 acres of valuable wildlife habitat.

I applaud HCCB's long history of impressing the importance of conservation from one generation to the next. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in con-

gratulating the Hancock County Conservation Board, Director Tom Haan, and Naturalist Jason Lackore for their fifty years of success, and I wish them an equally storied future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit to the RECORD the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on June 2nd. Due to inclement weather that caused my connecting flight from Charlotte, North Carolina to Washington on Tuesday, June 2 to be delayed, I missed a series of votes that were held. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

H. Res. 421—recognizing and commending the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th year anniversary (Roll no. 292)—Aye
H.J. Res. 40—to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes (Roll no. 293)—Aye

H. Res. 489—recognizing the twentieth anniversary of the suppression of protesters and citizens in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing, People's Republic of China, on June 3 and 4, 1989 and expressing sympathy to the families of those killed, tortured, and imprisoned in connection with the democracy protests in Tiananmen Square and other parts of China on June 3 and 4, 1989 and thereafter (Roll no. 294)—Aye

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE SUPPRESSION

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, one of the primary reasons that I ran for public office was to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law at home and abroad—particularly in China. There is perhaps no greater singular event that compels me to do so than the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 3 and 4, 1989.

On this, the twentieth anniversary of the violent suppression of protesters in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing, I express my deepest condolences to the families of those killed and imprisoned in connection with the demonstrations. I urge the Chinese government to immediately review the cases of those still imprisoned for participating in the 1989 protests and to release those individuals who were imprisoned solely for exercising their internationally recognized rights to free expression and peaceful assembly.

In many ways the China of 1989 and the China of 2009 are worlds apart. Twenty years ago, no one would have imagined that China would become the world's largest Internet user a mere twenty years later. And yet, even with the power of the Internet to fuel greater transparency, the people of China still face the